



Utah Public Health Association (UPHA)

Since 1916 the Utah Public Health Association (UPHA) has been an integral part of promoting and protecting the health of Utah's citizens. This has been accomplished through health education program development, professional development, annual conferences of the public health community, and advocating for evidence based public health policy and legislation. The UPHA's is the primary unifying organization for promoting competent public health practice and represents well over 1000 public health professionals. UPHA's mission statement is "**Working for a Healthier Utah**".

Since 1900 the average life expectancy for Americans has increased by approximately 30 years. At least 25 of those years can be attributed to public health initiatives. Medical advances account for about 4 years of this increase. The dramatic achievements of public health have improved the quality of life in Utah more than any other factor and the UPHA has been at the leading edge of these achievements for almost 100 years. Despite the remarkable advances of the 20th Century we continue to face significant public health challenges from emerging infections to epidemic obesity. While other health related professions are focused on individual health, public health is focused on populations (i.e. state, county, town, country, or some other defined group of people).

A sustainable public health infrastructure and competent public health professionals are essential in meeting the diverse challenges of the 21st Century. In Utah, public health professionals are responsible for the work carried out by the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and the twelve health districts representing the twenty-nine counties of Utah. There are six multi-county and six single county health districts. Public health professionals also work in numerous other government agencies and private organizations. They represent a broad spectrum of professional and technical expertise but no matter where they work, they are focused on maintaining and improving our quality of life. Much of their work goes unrecognized due to the nature of prevention. When public health is at its best, nothing happens! In fact the work of prevention when accomplished well runs the risk of being viewed as unnecessary.

The UPHA is the organization that represents this network of professionals dedicated to maintaining our extraordinary quality of life. The goals of the UPHA are:

- 1. Ensure a competent public health workforce**
- 2. Provide a strong collective voice for sound public health policies**
- 3. Work to protect funding for core public health services**
- 4. Ensure access to health care and eliminate disparities**
- 5. Address emerging public health issues**

It is a tremendous blessing to live in Utah. A healthy public means improved economic productivity, increased educational opportunity, and a better quality of life for everyone. Please help us continue the important work of the UPHA by joining with our members in building a public health endowment fund. Your support is tax deductible as the UPHA is now a registered 501(c) 3 charitable organization, # 87-0327438.